

The Living Word

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

18 June 2023

First Reading Ex 19:2-6

A reading from the book of Exodus

You will be a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."'

Responsorial Psalm

PPs 99:2-3. 5. R. v.3

**(R.) We are his people:
the sheep of his flock.**

1. Cry with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock (R.)
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 5:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We have been reconciled to God through the death of his Son; we are saved by his life.

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the

death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

Gospel Acclamation Mk 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The kingdom of God is near;
repent and believe the Good News!
Alleluia!**

Gospel Mt 9:36 – 10:8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

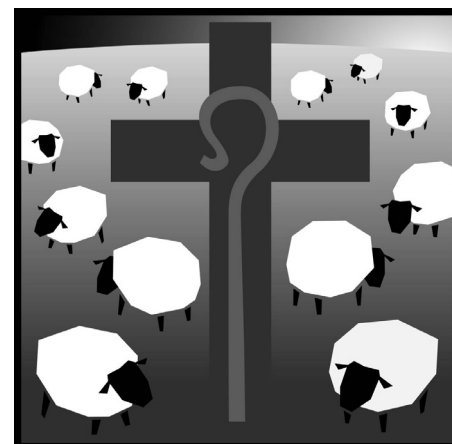
He summoned his twelve disciples, and sent them out.

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'



Reflection

by Michael Tate

When Jesus saw the crowds 'he felt sorry for them'. The Greek original actually says 'his guts were in a knot'. When Jesus saw a desperate need he found it stomach-churning stuff.

Our bodies often tell us what we should pray for. Another good signal is tears, not only of sadness but also of joy.

Body-felt impulse and prayer go together, whether celebrating good things or confronting bad things. This is what our Lord wants and, where possible, leading to effective action... labourers in the harvest.

So, when our body gives us the signal – stomach in a knot, or tremendous joy flooding into our lives – follow the body's signals. Pray for the person or the situation concerned. You can be sure that your prayer will be authentic.

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St Anthony of Padua was born at Lisbon, Portugal in c. 1193. He joined the Franciscan friars around the age of 25 and worked as a missionary among the Muslims in Morocco. Returning to Europe due to ill health, Anthony spent time at an Italian hermitage, where his gift for preaching was soon discovered. Due to his reputation as a biblical scholar, he spent the remaining nine years of his life teaching in France and Italy before dying at Padua, around 1232. Many miracles were attributed to his intercession and to this day St Anthony is regularly invoked by many as a finder of lost items. He is named as one of the doctors of the Roman Catholic Church.



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

apostles	Gentiles	instructions	shepherd
confused	harvest	Judas	twelve
flock	heal	Peter	workers

J	P	E	T	E	R	X	D	L	B	C	A	T	D	N
U	N	C	N	P	L	C	N	D	I	C	P	D	D	M
B	J	S	G	X	K	L	T	W	N	S	O	U	Z	Z
J	Q	T	W	E	L	V	E	O	S	I	S	Z	U	I
H	Z	O	C	L	T	S	Q	R	T	Q	T	L	V	G
T	E	D	D	P	I	C	X	K	R	A	L	X	F	U
C	O	N	F	U	S	E	D	E	U	A	E	K	L	N
T	L	S	L	U	Z	X	R	R	C	X	S	S	O	H
L	S	M	X	H	B	J	V	S	T	Y	W	C	C	A
F	M	H	E	A	L	Y	G	T	I	U	P	T	K	R
B	B	F	B	P	J	Q	W	M	O	L	I	C	W	V
W	O	Q	E	I	M	A	M	F	N	Z	M	C	S	E
G	E	N	T	I	L	E	S	E	S	H	P	E	Y	S
P	C	M	B	Q	D	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	T
R	T	O	C	V	H	J	U	D	A	S	Z	J	T	A

There's a large crop in the field but not enough workers! Send these workers out to gather in the harvest

